

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraphs on page 4, line 10 to page 5, line 7 and replace them with the following paragraphs:

Moreover, a peptide is preferably used in which

Z₅ is a peptide moiety comprising the amino acid sequence

Asp Lys Lys Arg Glu Glu Ala Pro Ser Leu Arg Pro Ala Pro Pro Ile Ser Gly Gly Gly Tyr Arg
(SEQ ID NO: 1)

Z₁ is a histidine moiety,

Arg is an arginine moiety,

Z₃ is a proline moiety, and

Z₄ is a leucine moiety.

Furthermore, a peptide is preferably used in which

Z₅ is a peptide moiety comprising the amino acid sequence

Glu Arg His Gln Ser Ala Cys Lys Asp Ser Asp Trp Pro Phe Cys Ser Asp Glu Asp Trp Asn
Tyr Lys **(SEQ ID NO: 2)**

Z₁ is a proline moiety,

Arg is an arginine moiety,

Z₃ is a valine moiety, and

Z₄ is a valine moiety.

Furthermore, the invention relates to the use of a peptide which exhibits the N-terminal sequence

Gly-His-Arg-Pro-Leu-Asp-Lys-Lys-Arg-Glu-Glu-Ala-Pro-Ser-Leu-Arg-Pro-Ala--
Pro-Pro-Pro-Ile-Ser-Gly-Gly-Gly-Tyr-Arg **(SEQ ID NO: 3)**

and which has the biological property of matching the inducible VE-cadherin binding motif on the B β -chain (i.e. B β ₁₅₋₄₂) of human fibrin for the preparation of a pharmaceutical preparation for the treatment of shock.

A further preferred embodiment of the use according to the invention is characterized in that the peptide is

Gly-His-Arg-Pro-Leu-Asp-Lys-Lys-Arg-Glu-Glu-Ala-Pro-Ser-Leu-Arg-Pro-Ala-Pro-Pro-Pro-Ile-Ser-Gly-Gly-Gly-Tyr-Arg (**SEQ ID NO: 3**).

Please delete the paragraph on page 6, line 27 to page 7, line 2 and replace it with the following paragraph:

In detail, 96 well protein immobilizer plates (Exiqon, Vedbaek, DK) were coated with recombinant human VE-cadherin FC fusion protein (8 nM/ml; R&D Systems, Minneapolis) in PBS and were left overnight at 4 °C. Plates were then washed and incubated with peptide B β ₁₅₋₄₂ (GHRPLDKKREEAPSLRPAPPPISGGGYR (**SEQ ID NO: 3**)) tagged with a FLAG-sequence (DYKDDDDK (**SEQ ID NO: 4**)) at the C-terminus of the peptide or with a FLAG-tagged random peptide (DRGAPAHRRPPRGPIGRSTPEKEKLLPG (**SEQ ID NO: 5**)) at a concentration of 0-80 μ Mol. After washing, bound FLAG-tagged peptide was detected by incubation with a peroxidase-labelled anti-FLAG antibody (Sigma, St. Louis, USA) and chromogenic substrate. Optical density was determined by an ELISA plate reader set at a wavelength of 450 nm. Data represent the mean of three independent experiments, each performed in triplicates. The table below shows that the peptide B β ₁₅₋₄₂ bound to VE-cadherin in a concentration-dependent manner. In contrast, the random peptide demonstrated only insignificant binding.

Please delete the paragraph on page 9, line 29 to page 10, line 2 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Dengue virus in the animals' blood was identified by RT-PCR as described earlier (Harris et al. J. Clin. Microbiol. 36, 2634-2639). Total RNA from the blood was isolated using a kit from Quiagen (Germany). Primers were as following: upper

5'AATATGCTGAAACGCGAGAGAAACCG (**SEQ ID NO: 6**) (position 136-161), lower
5'AAGGAACGCCACCAAGGCCATG (**SEQ ID NO: 7**) (position 237-258), amplifying a
119 bp product. To quantify the virus load, DEN-2 was titrated onto Vero E6 cell cultures
as described earlier (Harris et al. J. Clin. Microbiol. 36, 2634-2639). On day 0 and 22 after
the challenge blood of the surviving mice was analyzed for anti-DEN-2 antibodies (IgG) by
ELISA as described earlier (Ignatyev et al. J. Biotechnology. 44, 111-118).